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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2058
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1891
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 0280
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2141
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 7954
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 0134
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 6320
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 8715
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 9987
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 6925
RHMFIS/USFJ PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMFIS/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOR PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 8541
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2016

TAGS: PREL JA RU

SUBJECT: JAPAN TO MONITOR RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reasons 1.4 (B) (D)

¶1. (C) Japanese observers will monitor the March 2 Russian presidential election at the invitation of the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC), Japanese Foreign Ministry and Russian Embassy diplomats informed Embassy Tokyo on February 27. The three-member delegation, consisting of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and one academic, will visit Russia from Feb. 28 to March 4. Russia Division Principal Deputy Director Kotaro Otsuki said the team will stay in Moscow, but have plans to visit a "suburban area." Asked why the CEC would invite Tokyo to observe the contest, Otsuki said that Russian officials praised a Japanese team that monitored the 2007 Duma election.

¶2. (C) Russian Embassy First Secretary Yurii Yuriev confirmed the CEC invitation, but noted that the team actually departed for Russia in mid-February. Yuriev did not know where the delegation would be stationed, but added that in accordance with "the principles of democracy which exist in my country, they can monitor anywhere they want."

¶3. (U) Foreign Minister Masahiko Koumura told reporters on February 26 that the observers would monitor the election campaigns, voting and ballot counting to ensure the procedures are fair and democratic. A Foreign Ministry press release noted that Japan sent election monitors to Russia for the 1996 presidential election, as well as parliamentary contests in 1993, 1995, 1999, and 2007. Japanese Embassy diplomats also conducted monitoring activities for the 2000 presidential and 2003 Duma elections, according to the press release.

SCHIEFFER